

are the north. The diorite dyke is exposed for about 1 km and appears to be about 1 m wide, although its width varies and the broken, superficial rock is scattered over a greater width than a metre. Throughout its length worked cores can be found, as well as discarded and possibly imperfect stone tools.

(b) Cattle camp pool

The remains of the shelters of an old mustering camp lie beside a pool in a creek 6 km S.E. of Houndie's Leap shelter. Although this camp was undoubtedly used by European man the stream bed and bank contain numerous worked rocks and suggest that the Aborigines used the site long before European man reached the area. Possibly, as stockmen in his employ, they sited their muster camp on a traditional site. The pool holds water for several weeks after the winter rains and makes the site an attractive location at that time of year. No excavations have yet been carried out at this site.

(c) Yarrameedie Gallery

This site is described by Davies (1961) and lies 20 km north of Ejah. The Yarrameedie Range is a striking backdrop to the view north from Ejah and intrudes onto the horizon in most outlooks from the north side of the breakaways. The large and permanent Poonthoon Pool lies to the south of the range, east of the gallery, and must have been the summer refuge after the rock holes of the hills had dried out. Poonthoon provides a backstop to life at Ejah, where the rock holes cannot be relied upon to last through long dry periods.

DISCUSSION

Detailed examination of the Ejah breakaways show that they provide sufficient water and shelter to support human life for most of the year, and that they are conveniently placed within walking distance of other sites apparently important to Aborigines. There are Euros around the breakaways which could provide food, and no doubt much other food was available for people with traditional knowledge. The extensive carvings and paintings of Gnumartna confirm that it was much used by the Wadjari tribe and our experience suggests that it could have been a permanent base for the surrounding countryside from which its inhabitants need only have retreated in very long dry spells.

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THE WANDERER BUTTERFLY AT BUNBURY AND OTHER PARTS OF THE SOUTH-WEST, AND A NEW FOOD PLANT

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Populations of the Wanderer butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) were discovered near Perth in the late sixties (Koch, 1971, 1973a and 1973b; Dell, 1974). In recent years, the Wanderer has also become abundant in the lower South-West, particularly the Bunbury area, where its breeding places have been found.

Since January 1976, the Wanderer has appeared more abundantly than in previous years around Perth; there have been numerous sightings

at Glen Forrest, Helena Valley, Bayswater, Tuart Hill, Nedlands, Karrakatta and Fremantle.

Many persons in the South-West, especially Mrs. S. Mifflin and other members of the Leschenault Naturalists' Society, have reported Wanderers around Bunbury between January 1 and March 28, 1976. Of the more than 200 Wanderers sighted, 82 were along the Collie River at Roelands, 70 at Bunbury and 27 at Donnybrook. The butterflies were most abundant throughout March 1976, especially at the following localities (listed from north to south): Harvey, Binningup, Beela, Brunswick Junction, Roelands, Bunbury, Waterloo, Boyanup, Argyle, Capel, Donnybrook, Wyadup (near Yallingup) and Grace Town (on Cowaramup Bay).

The butterflies have been recorded even further to the South-West, viz, at Augusta in January 1968 (Koeh, 1971) where they were seen again in mid-June 1976.

Wanderer butterflies are attracted to a variety of flowers, including those of *Lantana*, *Ageratum*, *Zinnia*, *Abelia*, *Buddleia*, *Dahlia*, *Poinsettia*, *Eriobotrya* and *Abutilon*.

The W.A. Herbarium has the following records of milkweed plants, the food of the caterpillar:

Asclepias curassavica—Carnarvon, Geraldton, Trayning, Fremantle, Mundijong.

Asclepias fruticosa—Kings Park, Armadale, Jarrahdale, Dwellingup, 7 mi. W of Busselton.

However, milkweed must have a much wider distribution than these data indicate, for, in April 1976, caterpillars of the Wanderer were reported from Augusta, Narrogin and Pingelly. Furthermore, during the course of the present increase of the Wanderer around Bunbury, the butterflies were found to be numerous at the following localities in which milkweed was growing: Harvey (Harvey river and roadsides), Roelands (along the Collie River), Bunbury (various gardens), Dardanup to Wellington Mill (in the upper reaches of the Ferguson River), and Joshua Brook (3 mi. E of Boyanup).

Some residents believe that the Wanderer has been present in Bunbury for at least 10 years. All stages of the Wanderer (and also the Lesser Wanderer) were associated with *A. fruticosa* growing along the railway line at Blair Street, Bunbury, e.g. on 18/5/1974, 21/7/1974, 10/6/1975, 1/8/1976. *A. fruticosa* was the food plant of large numbers of Wanderer caterpillars at the Collie River in April 1975.

In Kings Park, caterpillars of both the Wanderer and the Lesser Wanderer have been observed feeding on *Staphelia variegata* and *S. grandiflora* in the Botanic Gardens. Indubitably, the butterflies must recognise *Staphelia* species as food plants of the caterpillars, which thrive on these plants and at times are regarded as pests by gardeners. Previously species of *Calotropis* and *Asclepias* were the only recorded food plants of the Wanderer in Western Australia. Detailed information on these and other food plants elsewhere in Australia is given by Smithers (1973). The present record is the first of *Staphelia* as a food plant of the Wanderer in Australia.

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